

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-37 were pending. In this paper, claims 13, 15 and 24 have been canceled. Claim 7 has been amended. Applicants address each of the objections and rejections in the order in which they appear in the Action. All pending claims have been amended to remove a typographical error. No new matter has been added via these amendments to the claim set, and Applicants reserve their right to pursue the subject matter canceled or described in the specification and not claimed in the pending claims in the future.

In the Office Action of July 21, 2009 the Office indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-14, 16, 18-23, 25 and 27-37 were allowed. In the same Office Action claims 7, 8, and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 6 and thus claims 8 and 26 now also depend on claim 6.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that Reference No. 3 listed on the Form PTO-1449 submitted on August 3, 2006 was not considered. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the reference and return a fully-initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the next communication.

II. Section 102(b) Rejection Overcome

The rejection of claims 13, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,085,351 (Martin) is moot in light of the canceled claims.

III. Double Patenting Rejection Overcome

Claims 1-37 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24, 36-69, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,678; claims 1-22, 34-69, 83, and 90 of copending Application No. 10/597,683; claims 1-46 of copending Application No.

10/597,703; claims 1-24, 36-69, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,624 and claims 1-25, 37-71, 85, and 92 of copending Application No. 10/597,690. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have concurrently filed a terminal disclaimer. The filing of such terminal disclaimers does not serve as an admission of the propriety of the rejection.

IV. Conclusion

All claim rejections and objections being addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned, who can be reached at (919) 483-9995.

Respectfully submitted,

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